

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SS-20

DRC-01 SSO-00 RSC-01 /052 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:KLMARSHALL:STT

APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL

SCA/SCS:CANDERSON (INFO)

RA:HWSHLAUDEMAN (INFO)

ARA/BC:AISAACS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI'

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - DEATH OF CHARLES HORMAN

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE WITH NEW YORK POST (RPT POST) OR OTHER PRESS QUERIES IF ASKED.

AS OF NOON OCTOBER 29, NO PRESS QUERIES RECEIVED BUT WE EXPECT CALL MOMENTARILY FROM NEW YORK POST REPORTER.

TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE CONFUSION, REQUEST EMBASSY CONFIRM BY CABLE SOONEST FACTUAL ACCURACY PARAGRAPH 2 OF FOLLOWING GUIDANCE:

GUIDANCE - THE UNITED STATES HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED AN AUTOPSY REPORT AND A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH CHARLES HORMAN MET HIS DEATH IN CHILE ON SEPTEMBER 18. THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED US THAT IT WILL ACTIVATE ALL ITS COMPETENT AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MR- HORMAN'S DEATH AND THAT IT WILL PROVIDE OUR EMBASSY WITH A DETAILED REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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THE ONLY DEFINITIVE INFORMATION WE HAVE AT THIS TIME CON-

CERNING CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH IS THE FOLLOWING: ON OCTOBER 18, CHILEAN AUTHORITIES INFORMED OUR EMBASSY THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED BODY HAD BEEN PICKED UP IN THE STREET AND BROUGHT BY A MILITARY PATROL TO THE SANTIAGO MORGUE AT 1335 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 18. THE BODY REPORTEDLY REMAINED

AT THE MORGUE UNTIL INTERRED ON OCTOBER 3 IN A SANTIAGO CEMETERY. THIS BODY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED ON OCTOBER 18 THROUGH FINGERPRINT RECORDS AS THAT OF CHARLES E. HORMAN. DEATH IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY MULTIPLE BULLET WOUNDS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING AT THIS TIME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED OR THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH. UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT'S REPORT, WHICH WE SINCERELY HOPE WILL SHED REAL LIGHT ON THIS TRAGIC EVENT, WE ARE UNABLE TO DRAW ANY MEANINGFUL CONCLUSIONS. MEANWHILE, WE SEE NO USEFUL PURPOSE IN SPECULATING ON WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED UNDER THE CONFUSED AND UNSETTLED CONDITIONS WHICH EXISTED AT THE TIME OF MR. HORMAN'S DEATH. WE DEEPLY LAMENT THE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND WE SHARE THE ANGUISH THAT MR. HORMAN'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE EXPERIENCING.

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT CHILEAN AUTHORITIES AND THE US EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO HAVE ADMITTED THAT CHARLES HORMAN WAS EXECUTED BY THE CHILEAN MILITARY IN THE NATIONAL STADIUM?

ANSWER: WE CANNOT COMMENT ON ANY STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO CHILEAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF CHARLES HORMAN'S DEATH. ANY COMMENTS ON OR CLARIFICATION OF SUCH STATEMENTS CAN ONLY BE MADE BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES.

AS REGARDS STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO OUR EMBASSY OR TO DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, WE CAN SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT AT NO TIME DID ANYONE SAY THAT WE HAD BEEN INFORMED OR THAT WE HAD SOME DEFINITIVE INFORMATION AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH CHARLES HORMAN DIED.

FYI -- ABOVE STATEMENT EXCEPT FOR Q AND A WAS READ TO HORMAN SENIOR BY PHONE.

DECONTROL JANUARY 29, 1974. KISSINGER

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